

# Mobile Apps for Articulation

Technology is a wonderful thing and we are seeing it being used more and more in speech and language therapy. Parents are also able to download apps and access other online resources to help their children practice and reinforce their speech and language skills at home.

## How are Apps and Technology used in Speech-Language Pathology?

Apps are not only effective tools for supporting children's articulation practice in therapy and at home, but were developed with children in mind, are fun and motivating, and can be used in conjunction with other games and activities that are engaging for kids and their families! However, there are some considerations when using apps and technology to improve your child's speech and language skills.

We cannot just give our children the technology and assume they will learn the skill. Children need face-to-face interaction in order to learn to communicate, and feedback about how they are doing.

If you are using an app or technology to teach or practice speech and language skills, ensure that you are sitting with the child and engaging in the activity. Make sure that the child has a clear understanding of the skill they are trying to improve and provide them with specific feedback and praise. It is imperative that technology is used as a tool and not in place of adult involvement and feedback. And of course, parents and educators must also be cognizant of too much screen time.

If you have any further questions about apps or online resources to address your child's speech and language goals, please contact your school's speech-language pathologist!

- Resource: [Screen Time and Young Children - Caring for Kids](#)
- Resource: [Hanan Centre - Creating Safe\(r\) Screen Time for Your Child](#)

## Articulation Station



**Developer:** Little Bee Speech

**Cost:** Free (full version \$39.99)

**Available from:** [Apple App Store - Free](#) ; [Apple App Store - Full](#)

The free version includes the /p/ sound deck. Additional decks are available as in-App purchases.

## ArtikPix



**Developer:** Expressive Solutions

**Cost:** Free (Full version: \$39.99)

**Available from:** [Apple App Store - Free](#) ; [Apple App Store - Full](#)

The free version gives you the /b/ deck. Additional decks are available as in-App purchases.

## Talking Tom



**Developer:** Outfit7 Limited

**Cost:** Free

**Available from:** [Apple App Store](#)

Tom is a pet cat who repeats everything in a funny voice. This can be a fun way for your child to practice their target sounds that allows them to listen to their production (in Tom's voice) and decide whether or not they used their sound.

## Epic! - Kids' Books & Videos



**Developer:** Epic Creations, Inc.

**Cost:** Free for parents for 30 days.

**Available from:** [Apple App Store](#)

Read books together that feature your child's target sound. Have your child listen for words that contain their target sound, or if they are able to, have them practice some of the words containing their sound!



## Apps for Students with Communication Deficits

by Clint M. Johnson, M.A., CCC-SLP and Julie A. Daymut, M.A., CCC-SLP

*Apps are applications*, or software programs, that can run on a variety of devices, such as smartphones and tablets. Some Apps are free, and some are for purchase. The user simply downloads an App to his/her device through an online store or marketplace. Many Apps are educational in nature and offer speech-language pathologists (SLPs) and parents/caregivers multiple options for targeting communication skills. The lists below highlight some of the different kinds of Apps for speech/language goals. Keep in mind that there are thousands of Apps, so this list is just an overview – Be sure to check often for updates to Apps and new Apps!



The following lists, as adapted from *Apps for use in Speech Language Pathology* by Jennifer Davis (2011), highlight several types of Apps for meeting a variety of communication needs.

### Articulation/Phonology

- Practice sounds in isolation or at syllable, word, phrase, or sentence levels
- Identify phoneme placement (beginning, middle, or end of a word)
- Target phonological processes
- Practice tongue twisters
- Give screeners to track correct/incorrect responses and types of errors

### Assistive Technology

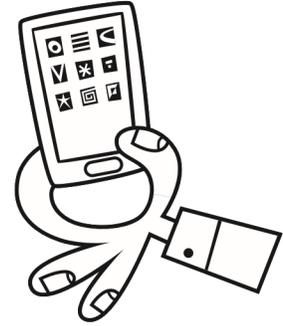
- Touch buttons to indicate basic communication needs
- Create pictures, flashcards, storyboards, or visual schedules
- Use pre-loaded pictures for vocabulary, including searches by category
- Add your own pictures
- Use pre-loaded verbal messages; record and store personalized verbal messages
- Store sequenced messages
- Use text-to-speech or speech-to-text functions

### Fluency/Stuttering

- Track fluent and disfluent speech
- Track avoidance behaviors
- Give a percentage for stuttering moments

## Language

- Answer/generate WH questions – Who? What? When? Where? Why?
- Create/record sentences and stories
- Identify different grammar forms, such as nouns, verbs, pronouns, and adjectives
- Move objects on the screen to work on basic concept words, such as *next to*, *above*, *below*, *before*
- Find pictures that go together or choose an item that doesn't belong
- Identify an object by its function, such as *barking* goes with... *dog*



## Sign Language

- Learn/review American Sign Language (ASL) signs
- Take a quiz on signs
- Watch videos of signs

## Social Skills

- Review/build *Social Stories* (short stories to help an individual understand appropriate behaviors for social situations)
- Look at photos and answer questions, including identifying facial expressions
- Review steps to social situations
- Teach manners

## Voice

- Show decibel (dB) (loudness) levels
- Calculate s/z ratio (sustaining the /s/ sound compared to sustaining the /z/ sound)

### Resource

Davis, J. (2011). *Apps for use in speech language pathology*. Retrieved from [www.speakingofspeech.com](http://www.speakingofspeech.com)

**For more Handy Handouts®, go to [www.handyhandouts.com](http://www.handyhandouts.com).**

## Helpful Products

The list of Super Duper® products below may be helpful when working with children who have special needs. Visit [www.superduperinc.com](http://www.superduperinc.com) and type in the item name or number in our search engine. Click the links below to see the product descriptions.

[Following Directions Fun Deck® App](#)

[What Would You Do At Home If... Fun Deck® App](#)

[How Would You Feel If... Fun Deck® App](#)

[What Would You Do at School If... Fun Deck® App](#)

["WH" Questions At Home Fun Deck® App](#)

[All About You, All About Me Fun Deck® App](#)

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